Musket

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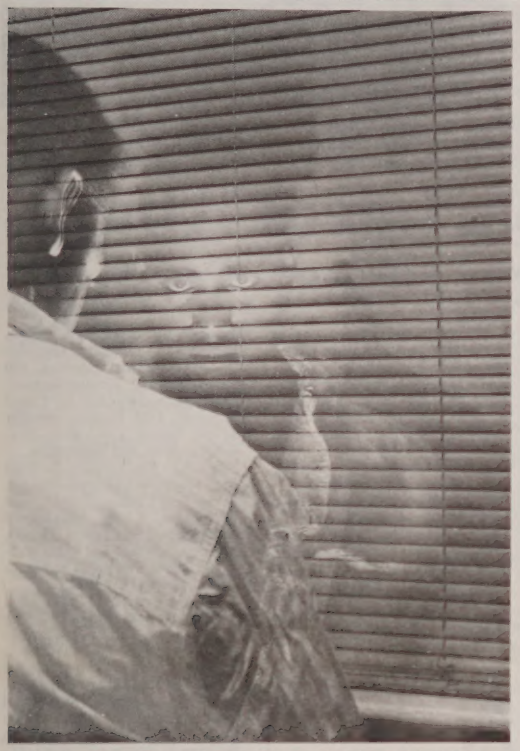

This award-winning self-portrait by senior Aaron Washington, a student of photography teacher Jack Zichittella, was honored in the 40th *Boston Globe* Scholastic Art Awards competition. Lexington High School students earned a total of 19 awards in this year's contest. See related story on page 2.

1991-92 Budget Set; Schedule to Remain Unchanged

LEA votes to freeze all salary increases for 37 days; move will supply much-needed funds

by Stefan Schick
and Dena Weinstein

The Lexington School Committee recently finalized the 1991-1992 school budget, which includes postponing proposed high school schedule changes, cutting 4.9 high school teachers, and delaying teacher raises system-wide.

Under the proposed changes in the high school schedule, the school day would have been lengthened by 30 minutes and major classes would have met five times per week, limiting the number of electives students could take.

Regarding the decision to keep the present high school schedule for at least one more year, LHS Principal David A. Wilson explained that the School Committee "felt they wanted for us to spend a considerable length of time looking at and comparing other options. The [proposed] plan was the best we could come up with at the time and it did have some problems — early morning arrivals, lack of option to use all periods because some staff would be here for first period and leave for last and vice versa, and even though we would have that schedule, it still would be very tight...There was also the issue of how a student could select two five-block courses, such as two languages, and still have room for their electives."

> "It's a long road. We're not over what's going to happen in a year or two. The teachers are acting in the best interests of the school system."
>
> —LEA President Philip Crosby

Regarding future schedule changes, Wilson said, "It is our hope to develop a task force that will put a great deal of research into present models and their relative strengths and weaknesses, and look at different schools and their philosophies, and make some recommendations on or before next December in order to be timely with the budget. We do not want to be budget driven — we want to make changes based on educational needs rather than budget constraints."

Although this year's schedule debate is over, there have been some changes made in next year's curriculum. According to Wilson, the choices in the 1991-1992 program of studies have been limited somewhat, as administrators have "tried to eliminate courses that have been historically undersubscribed...We have less time to reschedule this year, and the more we have to readjust and ask students to replace courses, the more difficult it becomes." He added that, due to budgetary debate, the course selection process is nearly

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S.C. Accepts New Substitute Bill

by Will Eisner

On February 26, the Lexington School Committee voted 3-2 to accept the Lexington High School Student/Faculty Senate's revised Substitute Bill. The long-debated bill had previously been vetoed by LHS Principal David A. Wilson and reinstated by the Senate.

As passed by the Senate and accepted by the School Committee, the bill states that teachers may elect to cancel their senior classes instead of using a substitute. The policy will be instituted on a trial basis for the remainder of this school year. This trial period will be used as a way to evaluate the bill's effectiveness and future. School Committee members John Obertueffer, Sheldon Spector, and Albert Zabin voted for the policy, while Chairperson Lois Coit and Polly Woodworth voted against it.

The revised Substitute Bill is a modified version of the Substitute Bill, which was reinstated by the Senate earlier this year but not accepted by the School Committee. The original Substitute Bill would have allowed teachers to cancel any class, regardless of student age. If the revised Substitute Bill is deemed a success, it is possible that the School Committee will broaden its jurisdiction to students of all ages. Junior senator James Kvaal submitted the revised bill early this school year.

In addition to its success with the revised Substitute Bill, the Senate passed the Issue-Based Elections Bill. The bill requires candidates for Senate, School Committee representative, Board of Appeals, and class offices to write short paragraphs summarizing their views on school issues. The bill, submitted by junior Eric Goss, underwent several changes before accepted.

In its original form, the bill would have provided for anonymous paragraphs; however, the Senate amended the bill to require signed paragraphs.

The Issues-Based Elections Bill was accepted by Wilson and will become school policy.

The Senate also passed a budget resolution. The resolution stated the Senate's general views concerning various budget issues, primarily those concerning teachers and courses.

In other news, the Senate passed a resolution to remind the School Committee that X-Block, which was threatened by several new schedule proposals, is guaranteed in the LHS constitution.

The resolution came after a Senate poll, which revealed only one-fifteenth of those senators surveyed would be able to come to Senate meetings were they held after school instead of during X-Block. The School Committee recently voted to maintain the current LHS schedule for the time being, reducing the danger to X-Block.

However, LHS Principal David A. Wilson has expressed dissatisfaction with current use of X-Block. While stressing that he has no objection with the Senate, he said, "I am not in favor of continuing X-Block in its present form. I do not feel that anticipated use, particularly in terms of freeing up all students to attend the meetings as they wished, is taking place. Given the fact that we are restricted not to do anything else, I am not in favor of retaining it."

When asked about other potential schedule configurations, Wilson replied, "I don't know, I haven't thought that far ahead. I think that it would be up to members of the Senate to consider other possibilities."

Also in the Senate, Junior Seth Theriault proposed an amendment to the LHS Constitution. The amendment would have had any bill that was reinstated by the Senate become school policy until addressed by the School Committee. The amendment went through several revisions, but it was voted down after a senator pointed out that the amendment was illegal and could not be made part of the constitution.

The junior representation of the Student/Faculty Senate listens intently to discussion of the Issue-Based Elections Bill on February 27. Photo by Jonathan Feldman

Duo Re-Elected

Woodworth and Zabin win back S.C. positions

by Jeremy Giller

In a campaign marked by fundamental disagreements between the incumbents and the challengers, the incumbents, Polly H. Woodworth and Albert P. Zabin, won reelection to the Lexington School Committee.

The two, each of whom received a second three-year term, defeated challengers Casimir R. Groblewski, Melinda D. Vinton, and Ruth M. Tocci on Monday, March 4.

Zabin was the top vote-getter, amassing 2,815 votes to Woodworth's 2,689, Vinton's 2,260, Groblewski's 2,064, and Tocci's 509. Approximately 5,500 Lexingtonians, 28 percent of all registered voters, braved raw, rainy weather to vote in the annual town elections.

Discussing his reelection, Zabin said, "I think people responded positively to the priorities that the [School] Committee had

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•***Good Woman*:** LHS music and drama departments combine talents to produce annual spectacular. Page 3.

Spanish Club Donates to Waspam, Nicaragua

Sister city committee chairperson speaks to club

by Jonathan Feldman

The recently re-established Lexington High School Spanish Club donated $100 from its fundraiser to the Lexington-Waspam Sister City Committee on Tuesday, February 5.

Under the leadership of its new officers, the Spanish club successfully raised a good deal of money from its first annual fundraiser two months ago. "The club then decided to give a portion of the money they had raised from selling M&M's to a worthwhile organization," explained the club advisor, Spanish teacher Beatriz DesLoges.

Members of the Spanish Club gave $100 on February 5 to Marcia Butman (far right), co-chairperson of the Lexington-Waspam Sister City Committee. Photo by Jill Caras

She suggested helping the Lexington-Waspam Sister City Committee, which she herself had just learned about. The club promptly decided to present the check after a representative of the committee talked to the club about Waspam, Nicaragua, Lexington's sister city.

The money will go toward paying for a portable sawmill, presently on its way from the committee to Waspam. The sawmill is desperately needed by the people of Waspam to rebuild their devastated town.

Marcia Butman, co-chairperson of the Sister City Committee, talked to the Spanish club on February 5 about the origins and goals of the committee. Since 1988, when it was formed by a concerned group of residents, the committee has worked hard to gain support and aid for rebuilding Waspam, located on the Nicaraguan border with Honduras. Because of Waspam's dilapidated condition after the contra war, the committee has been raising money for construction tools and supplies.

The Lexington-Waspam Sister City Committee has sponsored activities with Lexington schools to promote the rebuilding of schools and education in Waspam. Last year, LHS Spanish students translated a book about the Coco River, the body of water on which Waspam lies. This year, children at Bowman Elementary School wrote stories that were then translated into Spanish by LHS students and bound into books. These were then presented to the elementary school in Waspam, which desperately needs school supplies.

Along with the books, the committee brought 200 pounds of baseball equipment donated by Lexington residents to the school in Waspam.

Marcia Butman explained the difference between the conditions and quality of life in Lexington and in Waspam not only to LHS students, but also to church groups and elementary school students in Lexington. In elementary schools, she and other members of the committee role played to tell the following story:

After the cease-fire between the contras and the sandinistas in the Waspam area, the inhabitants of the town came back from their three years of evacuation. They found the buildings and many houses eroded beyond repair in their city, once the capital of the Coco River. The tropical jungle had overgrown much of the town and there was no electricity or running water available. The people of Waspam are currently working to rebuild their town and agriculture.

She also talked of her own experiences visiting Waspam. "When I came back [from Waspam], I looked at things in a different light...Coming from Lexington, the contrast is really profound, but it's important to realize that people can run their own lives, and that starting from basically nothing, they've done an incredible job at starting to rebuild [the town]." Looking to the committee's next projects, Butman said that she expected to send education equipment for the schools as well as medical supplies to the clinic in Waspam.

For more information about the Lexington-Waspam Sister City Committee call Marcia Butman at 861-6154 or write to the committee at this address:

Lexington-Waspam Sister City Committee
P.O. Box 283
Lexington, MA 02173

Seniors Jessica Bloom and Agnieszka Reiss are creating a wall-sized mural of M.C. Escher's "Waterfall" in physics teacher Mark Rodriguez's room. Photo by Jonathan Feldman

Art Department Abuzz With Activities, Awards

by Bernadine Tsung

From the colorful murals that decorate many of the cafeteria walls to the ever-changing artwork in the main hallway's display case, the artistic creations of Lexington High School students past and present add color and interest to the lives of all at the high school.

Despite the congestion and bustle that typifies the main hallway between classes, it is not uncommon to see students and teachers alike pause before the display case in order to admire new pieces of work.

Says junior Peggy Lin, "They grab my attention. I just have to stop and take a closer look."

Recently, LHS art students competed against over 850 of the state's best artists as they took part in the 41st Annual *Boston Globe* Scholastic Art Awards competition. The contest was open to students in grades seven to 12, from parochial and private as well as public schools. Collectively, Lexington artists walked away with one of the highest number of awards garnered by any town.

Nineteen students won awards, ranging from blue ribbons to judges' distinction awards. Blue ribbon winners Andrea Bettachi, Helen Chang, John Lin, Christina Post, Andrew J. Thompson, and Aaron Washington will have their pieces advanced to competition in the National Scholastic Art Awards contest in New York.

In addition to the blue ribbon winners, gold key awardees included Jill Caras, Beth Coppe, Samantha Davis, Jennifer Goodwin, Rebecca Isenberg, and Kazu Tokuoka. Honorable mentions were awarded to Carol Martinez, Jane Hutton, Jennifer Kline, Joyce Lee, Ken Niu, Rebecca Stetz, and Washington.

Judges' Distinction Awards were presented to Shawn Creager, as well as Chang, Coppe, and Washington. Chang, who earned three Judges' Distinction Awards, was also chosen to add to her portfolio to those which will be sent to the national competition.

Photography teacher Jack Zichittella said that he was pleased with the strong showing that LHS students made. "It was a significant number [of awards] for a school to win," he said. Currently, the blue ribbon and gold key winners' works are on display at the Transportation Building in Boston.

Other work by LHS students can be found on display in the Cary Memorial Library Art Gallery. The exhibit, entitled the "Seniors Art Show," will be showing through the month of March.

As for artwork at LHS, a display of photo self-portraits will soon be up in the photo room. Students are also invited to wander through the art wing and examine art displays throughout the year.

But art at LHS doesn't always end up in display cases. As in previous years, the art department sponsored the T-shirt design contest for this year's all-night graduation party: "Jamaican Jam." Since the contest was organized by art teacher Norma Regillo, designing a T-shirt was a required project for Regillo's Drawing and Painting classes. The contest, which was open to all students, will award the winner with twenty-five dollars.

Other projects underway include a wall-sized mural that is being painted in physics teacher Mark Rodriguez's room. The mural, a reproduction of M. C. Escher's "Waterfall," is the creation of seniors Agnieszka Reiss and Jessica Bloom. The mural is being painted for art teacher Smedley Manion's independent study class.

Why Rodriguez's room? "Because he's nice enough to let us do it in his room," replied Reiss. Both she and Bloom have taken many art classes offered at LHS, and Bloom has taken additional art courses at Boston University.

Although the pair has been planning out the mural for many weeks now, the actual painting has only just begun. Asked when they expect to finish the project, Reiss responded, "When's graduation?"

News Briefs

College Courses to be Offered to Seniors this Fall

Beginning in the fall of 1992, Lexington High School seniors will have the opportunity to enroll in three-credit college courses during the school day. These courses will be taught by professors from Boston University, Wheelock College, and Middlesex Community College. The program was approved by the Lexington School Committee on February 12.

Courses will be available to all Lexington residents who wish to pay from $229, for a course at Middlesex Community College, to $600, for one at Boston University.

Classes will be conducted during the day with either three one-hour classes a week or two one-and-a-half-hour classes.

A ten-student enrollment in a course would lead to implementation of the course.

Such courses would give college credit to students, allowing college-bound students to graduate early from college or pursue other electives. Three courses will be offered next year, with more courses to be offered in subsequent years, depending on the size of enrollment.

Some students expressed concerns about the program. "There's enough competition at the High School. We really don't need [the courses]," said senior Tissa Abedinejad.

Senior Ken Niu pointed out the unfeasibility of the program. "It seems undeniably foolish to expect students to pay $230 or more for a course, although the idea of getting credit is pretty good. I think if the Harvard Extension Program were included, it would be excellent."

The colleges have been approached and have shown great interest. They apparently hope to attract students by involving themselves in concurrent enrollment.

Exchange Trips Cancelled Due to Persian Gulf War

Faced with the heightening fear of terrorism while traveling abroad, Lexington High School administrators elected in January of this year to cancel all foreign exchange trips sponsored by the Lexington School System. The move was a reaction to the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf.

French teacher Karen Girondel, co-organized of an exchange with the Lycée Descartes in Antony, France, said that although students expressed disappointment in the cancellation, "the parents were relieved — almost universally." Girondel was to have accompanied 15 sophomores, juniors, and seniors to France in April. French students from Lyceé Descartes visited LHS students in October 1990.

French teacher Karen Girondel would have chaperoned the French exchange in April. Photo by Jonathan Feldman

"The students were half expecting [the cancellation]," Girondel said, "but they were hoping that if the war ended, they could still go."

"I'm very disappointed," said senior Ruthie Krieger. "I'd been looking forward to it for a long time."

Spanish teacher Martha Perakis, organizer of the Barcelona, Spain exchange, said that parents and students reacted with relief, disappointment, and understanding.

"We had been wrestling with that decision [to cancel the trip] within the department as well," she noted. "The town has a greater responsibility for the group than would an individual or family [planning a similar trip]."

"Some of the students were extremely anxious, and some parents considered not sending their children even before [the trip] was cancelled," added Perakis.

Some students, including senior French exchange participant Jessica Bloom, are considering a trip on their own. "I'm hoping to go in June myself," she said.

Both Girondel and Perakis said that the non-seniors who were chosen to participate in this year's trips would be given preference to participate next year. Girondel said that this year's French exchange students, with the exception of three current seniors, "would automatically go next year" if they so desire.

News briefs by Michael Ouyang and Carol Sohn.

Good Woman a Rousing Success

Brecht play a challenge for all involved — directors, actors, crew

by Angela Yin

The directors', cast's, and crew's smiles of satisfaction after the 1991 musical production of *The Good Woman of Setzuan* on March 15 and 16 were all that was needed to indicate another successful year for the Lexington High School drama and music departments.

The story was left unresolved by the playwright, Bertolt Brecht, because of his concern for social and political issues. Music director Sandi Peaslee, stated, "Brecht, as playwright, is difficult [to do], because he demands that the audience concentrate on the play's issues."

She explained that the play really was a "parable" of sorts, since Setzuan is a imaginary city in China and the characters all represent different aspects of humanity. Brecht, Peaslee clarified, "leaves everything hanging because that's the way he viewed life." Senior Winnie Liang, performing the arrogant Mrs. Mitzu on Friday night, also explained, "Brecht wanted us to look at [his play] critically. He exaggerated the situation to make the audience realized problems in the world."

Freshman Sarah England and senior Steve Hwang thought that the ending was refreshing while other people left with a feeling that something was unfinished. England expressed, "[The musical] was more dramatic than I thought, but I like it because it made you think." Hwang added, "I like how the musical was unresolved at the end because it wasn't one of those typical plays where everything turns out great."

Peaslee also felt that this year's production was very difficult to do because people came to be entertained and to sit back and relax, but the play had strong "didactic" qualities. Senior John Kramer, the carpenter, agreed, "The play was wonderful, but a lot of the conflicts are really hard for the High School. It's brave for the High School to be doing it. It was almost too difficult."

The other problem was how the audience would react. Senior Bryan Williams, Wong on Saturday, felt that because much of the music was in a "Broadway style, the audience might come in thinking that it is a carefree, laid-back show. They might miss the serious political messages."

Senior Palyn Hung, Saturday night's star, agreed, "The audience is going to have a hard time with the deeper themes — that's always the problem with serious plays." She continued, "Shen Te represents a lot of the struggles and conflict of humankind. She shows how hard it is to be good and upright — it's really sad too."

Many thought Brecht's serious messages did get through. Liang felt, "It made an impact on everybody. It made people think about the serious as well as the comic parts." Senior Derek Armstrong, the policeman, added, "From what I heard from the individuals in the audience, our ideas came through successfully." Senior Evan Gerber, the comic First God, remained optimistic before the show began as he piped, "Even if the audience doesn't get it, we learned a lot out of it."

Everyone involved was worried about the outcome, but as Armstong stated, "The best proof of how well it went was how excited we were in Room M-1 afterward." Director Peaslee, who not conly chose the play, but also wrote the music, was happy with the results.

She expressed that she was only able to hope that people liked it since she had contributed so much to the musical aspect of the production. Of the cast and crew, she exclaimed, "They have been utterly fantas-

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Mrs. Shin (junior Jennifer Schulte), Shen Te (senior Palyn Hung), and Mr. Shu Fu (senior Eric Adler) star in Saturday's production of *The Good Woman of Setzuan*.

Photo by Jonathan Feldman

Student Intern Labors for KISS

by Sara Fertitta

The young, smartly dressed kid walked in; I didn't even notice him at first. Then someone said, "Joe, come sit down. Can I get a picture of you?" I looked up from my newspaper to hear that voice cherished by millions say, "Not until I have some coffee, okay?"

I'm not a fan of the group, but meeting Joe McIntyre from New Kids on the Block has definitely been a highlight of my internship at WXKS, KISS 108 FM radio.

I started working there in mid-November, having no idea what I was stepping into. On my first day, I was thrown into the studio to work with disc jockey Sunny Joe White and his producer, Jimmy Jam. Both were welcoming and eager to have someone else on board. "Do you know anything about radio?" I was asked. Of course I didn't and I told Jimmy so, but it didn't seem to matter. I've pretty much found everything easy to learn since then.

The people who work at KISS are like a close-knit family. Smiling faces and cheery "hellos" greet me in the halls wherever I go around the station. Even on the first day, people made an effort to introduce themselves and make me feel welcome. They are easy to talk with and have also offered advice on my favorite subject — college.

There have been highs and lows working as an intern at KISS. On the low side, I've had to file music in the record library and copy articles for the disc jockeys. But even these jobs have had advantages — I have learned just about everything that's going on in the music world. Such menial tasks have been offset by the more exciting aspects of my stay, such as answering the phones during contests, preparing music and ads in the studio, attending KISS functions, and sometimes even deciding what goes on the air.

Recently, the music director and I were putting the finishing touches on the year-end "Top 108" countdown. He needed to move some songs around and cut one song from the list. To my surprise he asked me what song I thought should be added as a replacement. Here I was, a high school intern, deciding what should be considered a top song of 1990.

The best part of interning at KISS is telling my friends about the people I've talked to and met. The second day I was there, Maurice Starr, one of the biggest producers in Boston, called to talk to Sunny. In the process of taking the message, Starr introduced himself to me. I was very excited, to say the least. As soon as I got off the phone with Starr, I called my dad to share the news. He didn't get too fired up, but I knew he was happy for me.

One day, my supervisor Fran and I were doing some work in the office. When I went to deliver the mail and saw a bunch of guys standing in the lobby. I asked Fran if any groups were coming to visit, and she said the Black Crowes were here for an interview. Until then, I had no idea who the Black Crowes were, but it was sure nice to see a rock group in person.

I got my fill of celebrities at the "Matty in the Morning" Christmas breakfast at the Charles Hotel. The breakfast was held so kids of all ages could see Matty Siegel's show live. KISS invited numerous celebrities to entertain the kids. Gordon from Sesame Street and Miss Yvonne from Pee Wee's Playhouse were big hits, as were Rosenshonz, Rex Trailer and Sergeant Billy, Santa Claus, and Frosty the Snowman. The highlight of the show was the finale when Joe McIntyre (of the New Kids) made his appearance. The ballroom broke out into absolute pandemonium when he was introduced.

When I first started working at KISS radio, my friends would ask me what I had done. Now they ask, "Who did you meet?" I love bragging to them about hobnobbing with famous people. Though I never know what I will be doing or who I will be meeting, I look forward to my internship every week.

Jazz Musicians Set the Beat

by Mary Terzian

This year's LHS jazz groups — the Jazz Combo, the Jazz Ensemble, and the new *a cappella* group Shaken' not Stirred — have all been recognized as the best in their classes.

The eight-member Jazz Combo, directed by LHS music teacher Jeffrey P. Leonard, has attained much success. In one of its last performances, at the Berklee College of Music Jazz Festival on February 23, the group placed ahead of twenty-nine other groups from around the Northeast. The Combo won $3000 in scholarships from Berklee College. The three pieces performed were "Doxy," "Stolen Moments," and "And Here's to You Mr. Robertson," written by Leonard as a tribute to percussionist Dana Robertson.

According to Leonard, Robertson is "the driving force behind both the Jazz Combo and the Jazz Ensemble. His experience and high ability level have provided true excellence to the music...Dana has won awards in every jazz festival for the past two years."

Though Robertson has received six Outstanding Musician awards and $4500 in scholarships for his performance, he doesn't "go to the festival to win, but to learn...Being in the Jazz Ensemble is a good learning experience." He attributes his success to practicing daily and listening to music frequently; the renowned Gene Krupa and Buddy Rich are his favorite musicians.

The Jazz Ensemble won two awards in the Norwood Jazz Classic Festival on February 14, performing three pieces: "Clark's Bossa," "Cruisin' For a Bluesin'" and Gershwin's "Summertime." Pianist Justin Frazer was named an Outstanding Soloist for his performance in the highly syncopated "Cruisin' for a Bluisin." Frazer commented, "My favorite part about the Jazz Ensemble is playing in front of a big audience. One of the things that makes it so great is our high energy level...It's a lot of fun." Although this is Frazer's first year in the Jazz Ensemble, he has studied piano for more than seven years, specializing in jazz and improvisation.

The rhythm section, comprised of Mike Hsieh on guitar, Aaron Lacharite on bass, John Kramer on piano, and Dana Robertson on percussion, was awarded first place for outstanding rhythm section at the Norwood Festival. This was an unusual move for the Norwood Festival, which seldom awards entire sections.

At the International Association of Jazz Educators Festival, the Jazz Ensemble was awarded the only gold medal in its division, thus qualifying for the state finals. At the state finals, the ensemble won a silver medal.

In addition to excellent soloists, the Jazz Ensemble has an outstanding saxophone section. Leonard explained, "We chose the repetoire for the Jazz Ensemble with a particular saxophone section in mind. Unfortunately, the section leader was forced to leave the group...The rest of the section has risen to the occasion; they've been willing to give one to two hours outside of regular practice time to work on a particularly difficult solo section. After what we thought would be an insufferable loss, the saxophone section has won praises and great accolades."

The latest arrival to the jazz scene at LHS this year is the mixed *a cappella* jazz vocal group Shaken' Not Stirred, directed by senior Brian Lee. At the Berklee Festival, the group won first place. Of the four jazz choirs present, Shaken' Not Stirred was the only *a cappella* group, and the only student-run group present. Stylishly dressed in black and purple, the group sang "Embraceable You," "Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone," and "Satin Doll," which featured a solo by sophmore Tanya Frank. Director Brian Lee commented, "As a group, the most important thing we gained from Berklee was a realization of our potential, that all the work was worth it...The trophy was nice, though."

The jazz groups look forward to ongoing success this year. Upcoming competitions include the International Association of Jazz Educators State Combo Choir Festival.

The award-winning Lexington High School Jazz Ensemble rehearses on February 26 for the state finals. The ensemble won a silver medal.

Photo by Jonathan Feldman

Education Should Be Priority

Massachusetts is known across the country as the education capital. It is home to more than fifty state-funded and private institutions of higher education, and has traditionally given more support to public schools and colleges than any other state but California.

Over the past four years, however, Massachusetts has gone from being a forerunner in aid to local education to being a shocking *forty-ninth* in the country; only New Hampshire spends a smaller percentage of its revenues on education.

Massachusetts has gradually abdicated its role in funding education. According to Russell Burbank of the State Education Office for Planning, Research and Evaluation, state expenditures for Chapter 70 public education in 1986 totaled more than one billion dollars, while local cities and towns supplied 1.8 billion dollars. Since then, with the collapse of the "Massachusetts Miracle" and the constraints of Proposition 2 1/2, state aid has dropped to only 950 million dollars despite inflation, and local contributions have skyrocketed to 2.9 billion.

This trend is continuing under new governor William Weld; recent state budget proposals suggest an 18.2 percent decrease in education funding for next year. While adhering to his campaign promise of no new taxes, Weld has compensated by reneging on his promise to retain local aid, making substantial cuts in aid to cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth. Lexington and other communities will be forced to reopen discussions on their already slim budgets, making changes even as deadlines for layoff notices and scheduling pass. Education cannot be expected to absorb such massive cuts on a yearly basis.

Public colleges and schools throughout the state are suffering from the massive cuts in aid for education. Walter Littell, a spokesperson for the University of Massachusetts at Boston, cited figures that show the state-assisted UMass Boston to have lost, through nine budget cuts in the past two years, 23 percent of its 62 million dollar state aid package. If Governor Weld's newest budget-cutting proposals become reality, the university will lose another nine million for next year, amounting to a 37 percent decrease in three years. Like the 28 other state-supported or assisted schools facing budget cuts, UMass Boston has responded with tuition increases, salary freezes, and faculty layoffs. Still, such reductions are hard to accept; education professionals, according to Littell, feel they are being forced to take a "disproportionate" cut.

As much as budget woes have been felt here in Lexington, they have hit harder in poorer communities such as New Bedford and Fall River, where state aid funds more than 80 percent of school budgets. These communities simply cannot fund adequate school systems on their own.

Weld, like former governor Michael Dukakis, has failed to see that cutting state aid for education is merely a temporary solution that causes future problems. A good education opens job opportunities, and public schools and colleges create an educated work force, an urgent and ongoing need in the troubled Massachusetts economy. Education is not an extraneous bureaucracy that can be eliminated, but an essential need, an integral part of a reponsible budget.

Responsible budget-cutting and Proposition 2 1/2 overrides on a local level can only patch up specific budget problems. Instead of burying ourselves in local budget problems, we should look to the state and Governor Weld, and demand respectable funding levels for education. Governor Weld must learn that he cannot pass budget problems off to the cities and towns of the Commonwealth.

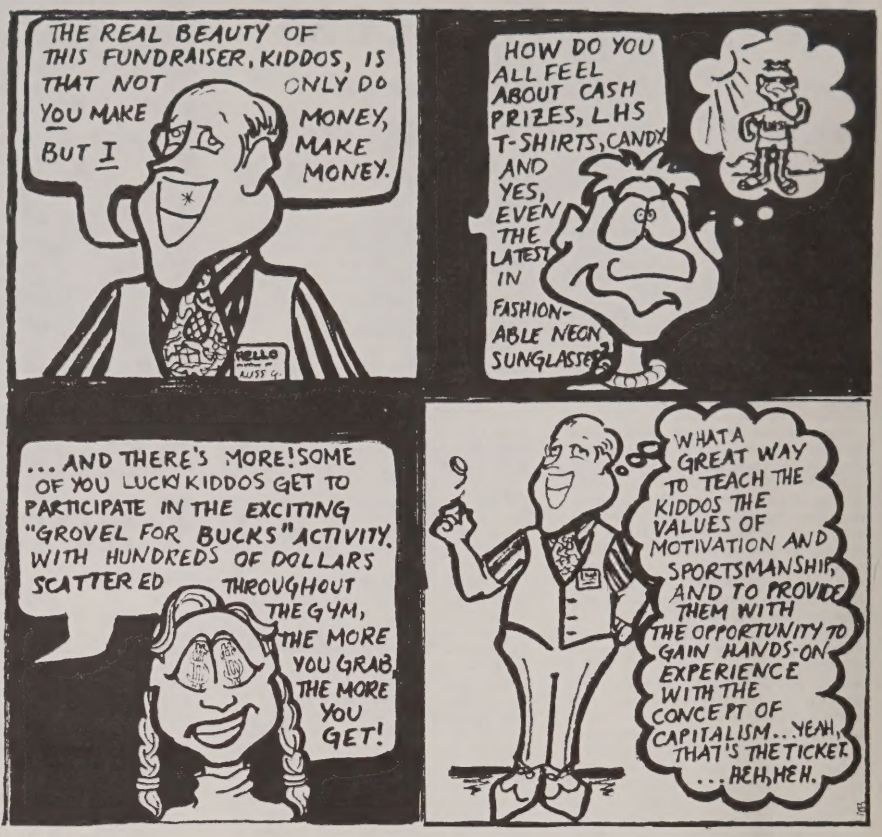
—Dena Weinstein

Musket Honored in Two Competitions

Musket recently has enjoyed success in two newspaper competitions. The paper claimed a first-place award in the prestigious Columbia University Scholastic Press Association journalism contenst, based on the six 1989-1990 issues. *Musket* earned 912 points out of a possible 1000, and was specifically cited for its outstanding news, features, and editorial writing, in addition to its design and layout.

In the Greater Boston High School Newspaper Competition, sponsored by Suffolk University and judged by the Massachusetts Press Association, *Musket* received two of a possible three first-place awards, one for excellence in news writing, the other for excellence in editorial writing. On March 7, the paper finished atop 48 other entrants, one of the largest fields ever for the contest. The contest was based upon the first two issues of this school year. This marks the third consecutive year that the paper took the editorials category. These awards carry a 5,000-dollar scholarship to Suffolk University.

Congratulations and thanks to all *Musket* editors and other contributors who made this success possible.


THE REAL BEAUTY OF THIS FUNDRAISER, KIDDOS, IS THAT NOT ONLY DO YOU MAKE MONEY, BUT I MAKE MONEY.
HELLO — RUSS G.
HOW DO YOU ALL FEEL ABOUT CASH PRIZES, LHS T-SHIRTS, CANDY AND YES, EVEN THE LATEST IN FASHIONABLE NEON SUNGLASSES?
...AND THERE'S MORE! SOME OF YOU LUCKY KIDDOS GET TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXCITING "GROVEL FOR BUCKS" ACTIVITY. WITH HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE GYM, THE MORE YOU GRAB, THE MORE YOU GET!
WHAT A GREAT WAY TO TEACH THE KIDDOS THE VALUES OF MOTIVATION AND SPORTSMANSHIP, AND TO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH THE CONCEPT OF CAPITALISM... YEAH, THAT'S THE TICKET. ...HEH, HEH.

War in Our Generation

Our generation has now lived through a war and, though CNN provided play-by-play coverage of "fireworks over Baghdad," it seems no more real. The previous generation keeps telling us how different this war was from Vietnam. They tell stories describing university days of marching, Bob Dylan, and trips you don't take with a car. We've all seen movies depicting, in casual gore, the horror of being in Vietnam and worse yet, coming home. In many ways the smoke hasn't cleared from that jungle conflict — the shell shock is still felt by our generation. We either condemn the past for its lack of patriotism or try to imitate its compassion for the world.

I suppose everyone remembers the exact instant when the news of war arrived from a distant world eight hours ahead. I was lost somewhere in the rhythm of routine, swimming endless laps at practice, when a janitor came and told us to listen to the radio. The media's blitzkrieg had begun. When it became clear that our country was now embarking on its first war in years, I realized that I had forgotten that President Bush's deadline had passed.

In the numbness of not only a cold pool, but a reporter's passionate garbling, I couldn't decide whether this was one of those times when you were supposed to weep for the fate of those about to die, run off to burn flags, or cheer for the country's moral strong arm. Instead, we all swam some more laps and hit the showers.

Some people, in response to the war, ran out to protest in a style originally choreographed for Vietnam. Protestors yelled about the war being fought for unjust, selfish reasons, with clever signs reading, "No Blood for Oil." Though the protestors were perhaps misguided, I still admired them — they seemed so sure of themselves. Others joined in a fanfare of red, white, and blue patriotism the likes of which I, a child of the seventies, had never seen.

On one pick-up truck I saw, there was a snow-plow attached with the words "Welcome to Hell, Saddam" written in red spray-paint. I wasn't sure what that meant, especially since there is no snow in the Iraqi desert and certainly no snow in hell, but I wished I could feel that the question of war was so easily answered.

To most people at school, the war seemed only a political cause. What began as utter bewilderment — disbelief that the real, live war in the Persian Gulf felt no different from the war we read about in history books — ended as reluctance to even mention such a taboo subject. Many people thanked divine mercy for that same boring routine, now an escape and opiate, an excuse to forget about the war until the seven-o'clock news. They seemed fully prepared to live out the duration of the war on the strength of this momentum alone. While groping for some kind of cause, many of us fumbled enthusiastically with yellow ribbons and nebulous statements about supporting the troops.

Later it occurred to me that those who were unwavering in their support for the war and those who were equally certain about their contempt for it had not really found the perfect solution. Maybe there really wasn't such a simple, all-or-nothing answer. Perhaps there is something bittersweet about our sword of Damocles in the Persian Gulf. Quite possibly, in making these uncomfortable decisions rationally, we will find the true focus of the "New World Order" and peace will follow.

—Ethan Ehrenberg

Musket

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Restructuring of Levels Called For

In January 1990, the Massachusetts Board of Education issued a report regarding the inherent flaws of grouping students on the basis of "ability," concluding, "[A]bility grouping does not achieve the intended purpose of improving the delivery of education to the wide range of students enrolled in schools...In effect, ability grouping and tracking mirror and perpetuate social and economic inequalities." The Board further attempted to dispel common misconceptions and suggest alternatives to traditional ability grouping, including heterogeneous (mixed ability) grouping.

Lexington High School had previously responded to these problems with an abrupt implementation of heterogeneous grouping for freshman English and history classes in the fall of 1989. However, as criticism from both students within the classes and outside observers has revealed, many of these problems remain, just in differing severities. Though heterogeneous grouping will most likely endure, it should not be expanded beyond the freshman year. At some point, students must be differentiated by ability so they can prepare for their future, which, for the vast majority of LHS students, includes college. As an editorial from the October 18, 1990 issue of *Musket* stated, "Education, not social engineering, should be the proper function of the school system in a free society." But, it is also necessary to minimize the damage caused by the problems cited in the Board's report.

Statistical analysis of the leveling system at LHS shows that 48 percent of students are enrolled in level-one classes in the four major subject areas: English, science, mathematics, and history. Only 29 percent *combined* take levels two and three. These numbers are clearly disproportionate. For all practical purposes, level one has become the average for LHS students, not level two as first intended (evident from the weight given to honors and level-one classes in the grade point average system). A redefinition of the leveling system is necessary in order to meet original objectives; the current situation places a stigma on those in lower levels and reduces the difficulty and challenge of the higher-level classes.

Percentage of students enrolled by level

	English	Science	Math	History	Languages	Total
Honors	35%	18%	17%	30%	25%	24%
Level 1	40	49	41	49	56	48
Level 2	22	29	32	19	19	25
Level 3	2	4	10	2	—	4

Average number of students per class

	English	Science	Math	History	Languages	Total
Honors	25.1	22.2	26.6	25.6	19.4	23.8
Level 1	23.1	25.6	24.2	25.8	20.9	23.9
Level 2	22.9	23.2	24.8	21.2	21.1	22.6
Level 3	23.0	14.7	19.8	12.0	—	17.4

In order to minimize the complexity of such a revision, the number of levels could be reduced by combining levels two and three. The statistics show that such a change would be feasible in all subjects but mathematics; nevertheless, some further change in the leveling system would still be necessary. If a reduction were to occur, the restriction of movement among levels would have to be alleviated. One of the report's primary contentions, that ability grouping "perpetuate[s] social and economic inequalities," would be countered by such an alleviation. Because segregation in classrooms is too often based on factors other than ability — race, gender, or economic background — this movement, based on student achievement, would allow all students to fully realize their academic potential, which often far exceeds what is expected of them. Lower-level students could be encouraged to challenge themselves to a higher degree, and the effects of prejudice and perhaps the prejudice itself would be lessened.

Another method of increasing interaction among students of different backgrounds is peer tutoring. Because it reduces social barriers among students, benefiting the school as a whole, tutoring could be encouraged by granting Cluster V credit to tutors. Tutoring benefits not only the tutored but also the tutor, for tutors gain the fuller understanding of a subject that the need to explain requires.

The problems cited in the State Board report cannot be denied. We see them every day, but we do not have to accept them. A redefinition of the leveling system is necessary in order to preserve the quality of education that Lexington High School has provided throughout the years and, ideally, to extend that quality to all students. The system has gone unattended long enough.

—Young-Ho Yoon and Jeremy Giller

A Look at the Future LHS

Student #741132, or 1132 as she was called by her friends, settled in her desk Monday morning and sighed. It was a Monday morning like any other Monday morning. In fact, with the calendar simplifications implented in 2091, every day was a Monday.

The fluorescent lighting cast an unnatural orange glow over the enourmous classroom, formerly the gymnasium. 1132 shifted in her seat and then shrugged off her jacket. She sighed again and looked around the classroom while she waited for the show to begin.

She studied the odd assortment of students around her. It struck her as amusing that for all the world's "advanced technology," schooling had returned to the one room schoolhouse of the early 1900s. All four grades were mixed together, though the group was predominantly freshmen. 1132 decided that the reason was simply inexperience; the freshmen would later learn that it was useless to attend school.

The fluorescent lights dimmed and a blue glow filled the room as the "Learning Monitor" came on. Several students were sleeping or socializing and some couples were even taking advantage of the dark, unsupervised room.

The "Learning Monitor" (or "LM" as it was called), was regarded as one of the finest inventions of the twenty-first century, replacing teachers who asked for vacations and raises and other silly human needs. Four monitors, purchased for under $500,000, had rid the school of the need for teachers and their costly salaries. The LMs had helped bring the school system out of debt.

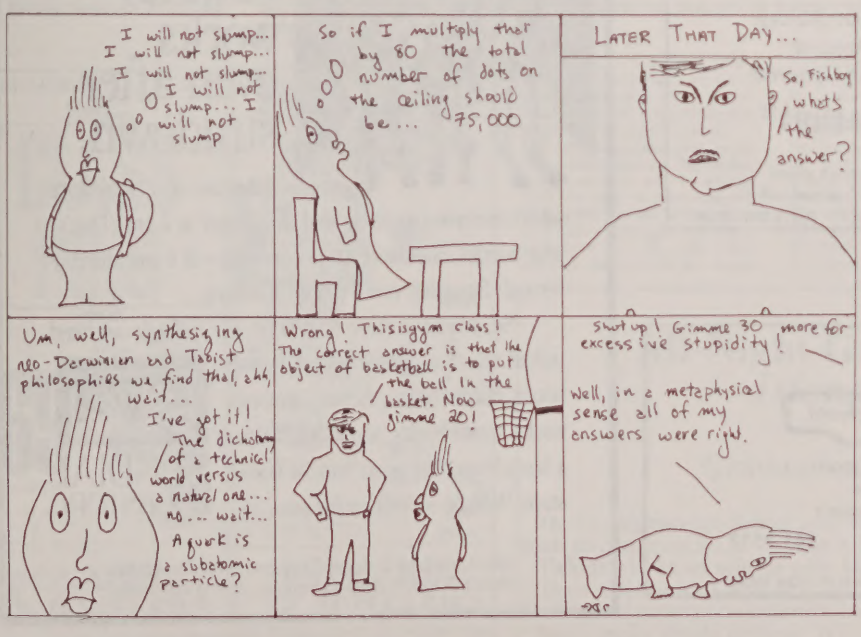
She focused her gaze on the LM and tried to decipher what the topic of the day's "lesson" was. 1132 laughed silently to herself when she thought of how the Council for Learning took so much pride in these monitors which were fully tamper-proof, with no volume or channel adjustors. Students could tune out monitors better than they could tune out teachers.

The word "teacher" struck 1132 as a word from the dark ages. She was lucky; many of the younger students were of the "LM Generation" and had never had a human teacher. It had started off slowly; a few teachers were removed and a state-of-the-art LM installed. The school bigwigs had gone with the fashion of technology, until they too were replaced by sophisticated machinery. By 1132's sophomore year, the school was just a boring television show that no one watched. Nielsen ratings didn't affect this show, though, so there was no hope for cancellation.

#741132 opened her eyes and glanced around. She eased her mind by reminding herself that she had only four months left of high school. 1132 was saddened by the thought of graduation — or the lack of it. The Council for Learning had eliminated costly graduation ceremonies and diplomas, yet another way to reduce expenses.

The girl turned away from the blaring Learning Monitors, trying only to cover her teary face.

—Susan Catterall


I will not slump... I will not slump... I will not slump... I will not slump... I will not slump
So if I multiply that by 80 the total number of dots on the ceiling should be... 75,000
LATER THAT DAY...
So, Fishboy, what's the answer?
Um, well, synthesizing neo-Darwinism and Taoist philosophies we find that, uh, wait... I've got it! The dichotomy of a technical world versus a natural one... no... wait... A quark is a subatomic particle?
Wrong! This is gym class! The correct answer is that the object of basketball is to put the ball in the basket. Now gimme 20!
Shut up! Gimme 30 more for excessive stupidity!
Well, in a metaphysical sense all of my answers were right.

Letters to the Editor

Senior Urges Understanding of Homosexuals, Minorities

To the Editor:

The day the last issue of the *Musket* came out, we read the unsigned letter about homophobia in one of my classes. We then had a heated discussion about homosexuality. I found myself arguing with people who actually believe that being homosexual was a person's choice. I have a hard time not flipping out at these people, yet in a way it's not their fault.

We have never been taught about homosexuality in school, if I remember correctly, not even Life Skills taught us about it. Homosexuality has always been a very taboo subject. Luckily, I was raised to tolerate any kind of human being. However, a lot of people weren't raised this way. Thus, those who don't understand it condemn it.

"It's just not NATURAL!" We hear that a lot. I wish those people would realize that it's just not possible for ten percent of our population to be mutated. It's also not possible to choose your own sexuality; if you like males, you like males; if you like females, you like females.

People always have a fear of what they don't understand. No heterosexual will ever completely understand homosexuality, just as no white can completely understand a minority. Everyone is prejudiced against something, but as long as one recognizes and understands that they have prejudice inside of them, it hopefully won't do much harm.

Homosexuality will someday be understood and accepted. It will take time, just as it took time for the norm to simply accept other minorities, such as women and blacks.

The person who wrote that latter had a lot of anger, and rightly so. The parents of other minorities are that same minority, so at least the person is accepted by his or her loved ones. But if you're homosexual and adolescent, you probably have nowhere to turn — not even your loved ones think you're normal, that is, if they're even aware of your situation. Imagine having to deal with that kind of loneliness at sixteen or seventeen; being tht age is hard enough on its own. Therefore, I would like to console this person by saying that people do care. Not every heterosexual is homophobic. I'd also like to wish him luck; the most beautiful people I've met in my life have always had something to fight for.

Karen Tercho
[Class of 1991]

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The LHS Literary and Arts Magazine

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Drama Club Produces Winterfest

by Nicole Silverman

Pulses raced and butterflies fluttered minutes before the curtain rose to reveal the 1991 LHS Drama Club's Winterfest on March 1 and 2.

The air was filled with excitement as actors and actresses tried to pass time before performing their plays. They partook in many activites, from listening to senior Justin Frazer ask Brady Bunch trivia questions to singing Earth Angel with junior Deborah Haber to relieve the stress.

Winterfest is a collection of student-written and student-directed plays. This year, Winterfest featured six student-directed plays, *Toys in the Attic*, *Tale of the Moon*, *Maybonne World*, *Four-and-Some*, *Through Still Dreams*, and*Vegetables of the Mind*. There was entertainment between plays by seniors Mark Lavalle as Biedy and Justin Frazer as Cecil to occupy the audience during set changes.

Grateful for his cast's extreme dedication, junior director Kurt Langer marveled at the actors' perseverance. "Golly!," he exclaimed, "the concentration in the actors was intense. They put in a grueling month of dedication and hard work. I think that the pride they should feel is not even an adequate reward for their time."

To junior Ethan Zohn, Winterfest meant an opportunity to act for the first time. "I had never acted before and it's good that I gained such good experience my first time."

To senior Tissa Abedinejad, working on the make-up crew, Winterfest meant seeing the true colors (no pun intended) of her fellow students. "I hate doing make-up because everyone has an attitude. You give them lipstick and they say, 'Wrong color.' Especially the guys, they are constantly complaining about wearing any make-up."

The quality of the acting this year was very high. Music teacher Sandi Peaslee said, "[Winterfest] was as good this year as it has ever been. It was just spectacular."

Drama teacher Steve Bogart also had many favorable comments on the production. "I was very pleased and impressed with the overall strength of the acting in all shows. I liked the variety and think [Winterfest] is a great opportunity to try out ideas and write pieces to see how they work in front of an audience."

The plays themselves ranged from comedy to tragedy. *Through Still Dreams*, written and directed by senior Julienne Webster, was one of the more serious plays.

Through three characters — Maggie, John ,and Cilla — the play illustrated the downfall of a parent/child relationship, which eventually led to suicide on the mother's part.

Maggie (sophomore Sylvia Sellers) and John (senior Mike Kennedy) dream of raising Cilla (junior Laura Lapointe) together. However, when money gets tight, Maggie finds a job away from home and Cilla.

The mother/daughter relationship begins to deteriorate, which affects the husband/wife relationship as well. After John and Maggie agree to a divorce, Maggie, who is unable to cope, commits suicide.

Webster described the play as a "mix of lots of influences by a lot of people that I know." She raved about the quality of her cast and the significant amount of time they gave to the creation of the play.

"I really couldn't have worked with anyone better. It was a whole group effort.

> "The concentration in the actors was intense. They put in a grueling month of dedication and hard work. I think that the pride they should feel is not even an adequate reward for their time."
>
> —junior director Kurt Langer
> *Vegetables of the Mind*

[My cast] discovered a lot of things that I never would have thought of. They are just as much the creators of the piece as I am." *Through Still Dreams* was recently voted Best Production at the Emerson Theater Drama Festival.

The other serious production at Winterfest was *Tale of the Moon*, originally written by I.L. Peretz, and adapted and directed by sophomore Taryn Roeder. The play illustrates the fantasies that two boys share in trying to escape their severe poverty.

Sneaking out of their houses every night, Levi and Zelig run through their neighborhood, imagining the extravagant houses of their rich relations. Roeder chose this play after reading it only once, because, as she explained, "The first time I read it in class, I fell in love with it. I loved it from the beginning."

The remaining four plays were strictly comical. Sanity in an insane world was the subject of juniors Eugene Mirman and David Ramsey's production, *Toys in the Attic*. The playc concerned a normal boy trapped in a world of insanity.

The play opened with Denzil complaining to his mother about the fishheads his family were eating for supper. In contrast, the play ends, after Denzil's mental transformation, with his complimenting his mother on the same dish.

Between the first and last acts, Denzil visits a psychiatrist who sends him to "the resort" for psychotherapy. He experiences a dream that symbolizes his gradual move towards insanity. The scene ended with Denzil so unstable that he throws a tantrum.

Four-and-Some was adapted by senior Bekki Hutton from the original play *Foursome* by Eugene Ionesco.

Hutton chose to adapt Foursome because, as she recalled, "I have never directed before and I wanted to try it. It would be something new for me. I thought that [*Four -and-Some*] would be short and absurd." The play consisted of one long argument concerning a variety of subjects, with the actors stepping out of character to address the audience or each other.

The play *Maybonne World*, adapted from Lynda Barry cartoons, was directed by senior Katie Ravich.

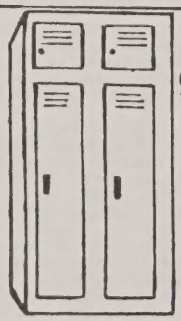
The production was a satire of the social hierarchy that exists at school and provided a diversity of characters, ranging from an alcoholic, cigar-smoking girl scout leader to a nervous boy called "Fishface."

The play had a number of scenes, narrated by the main character, Maybonne (junior Angela Delichatsios), who explained the arrangement of the school's social ladder.

The last play,*Vegetables of the Mind*, was written and directed by Kurt Langer. It centered around a boy named Eric (junior Justin Sweder). Eric probed into his life through dreams and relationships. His dreams included a torturous game show that he could not win. When he awoke, Eric argued with his two friends about who was the biggest loser among them.

After Winterfest, scream of satisfaction could be heard and the immediate embraces showed the actors' and actresses' feelings towards the productions. However, it was the sparkling faces of the performers themselves that illustrated their enormous pride at hearing the audience's loud applause.

A family enjoys the food and entertainment at the March 8 Chinese Club Dinner. The excitement included traditional dances and music.
Photo by Jonathan Feldman



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Detentions: Does the System Really Work

by Melissa Liazos

While detentions have been perenially used as a punishment at Lexington High School, their implementation has changed in recent years. The policy is stricter, and detentions are more controlled.

For most students, the threat of detention is sufficient to keep them in class, but students who skip regularly have a far different perception of detentions. Junior Nick Zabrowski explained, "It's not really punishment, it's just another class where we do nothing. People bring Gameboys and other games...It's almost a social thing."

Prior to 1988, when the LHS administrative system changed, the detention policy was at the discretion of the individual building administrators. Detention halls were held in each individual house, and skipping detention was not a suspendable offense, as it is now.

However, since the Lexington School Committee redefined the detention policy, there has been "a change in perception in the minds of the students" regarding attendance, according to Assistant Principal Anthony J. Capezza, administrator for J-House. The thrice-weekly detentions are now held in four separate rooms upstairs in G-House, which, Capezza said, forces students to be more accountable for their actions.

Associate Principal Paul N. Brown has noted a "big change in the number of detentions" for skipped classes since the new policy went into effect.

A significant percentage of students who serve detentions receive many a year. The general decline in detentions, however, is largely due to the deduction of one general credit for three skips in the same class, according to Brown.

Zabrowski remarked that he skips fewer classes because of this policy, saying, "If I only had the fear of detentions, I would skip left and right."

A sophomore disagreed, saying that she thought that the new credit-loss policy did not affect a student's decision to skip. One senior commented, "If it's the first time, you're nervous, but after a while you don't care anymore."

Proof of the partial ineffectiveness of the credit-loss policy came from another senior, who said that he has lost seventeen credits due to skipping but does not care as long as he has can graduate.

A significant problem with the current system is that there are many students with detention and few available slots.

> "It's not really punishment, it's just another class where we do nothing. People bring Gameboys and other games...It's almost a social thing."
>
> —LHS junior Nick Zabrowski

On March 5, for example, there were 59 detention-hall students assigned to a room with 32 seats. Many students had to be sent back to their building administrator. French teacher Roger Theroux, in charge of the group, said that he felt the old system was preferable to the new one because the students were spread out over four locations, leading to fewer students to supervise and higher accountability.

Teachers must now supervise just one detention hall per year instead of the three or four they had to supervise under the previous system.

However, Theroux said that he would actually prefer the old system rather than the lack of control that is inevitable with a large number of people.

Lexington apparently has a more lenient detention policy than other school sytems. New Assistant Principal Diane Lande said that the policy at her previous position, in East Bridgewater High School, was much more rigid. The first skip resulted in a one-day detention. With each successive skip, the length of the suspension increased. After a third suspension, students were only readmitted to school after a hearing with the principal. After their fourth suspension, students were excluded from school for the rest of the year.

Because East Bridgewater High School has only one building, such a policy is much more feasible than it would be in Lexington. However, one senior did comment, "If [a stricter policy were implemented, students] might respect school more."

Associate Principal for Curriculum Paul N. Brown felt that the loss of credits for multiple unexcused absences in the same class has reduced the number of students whoskip class.
Musket File Photo

School Budget, Schedule Finalized

Continued from page 1

a month behind schedule.

Wilson said the budget was finalized pending Lexington Education Association (LEA) approval, but cautioned that the budget "could be significantly altered from cuts from the state level."

Pending finalized "cherry sheets," detailing state aid expenditures, state aid to the Lexington school system may be diminished by up to $250,000.

The new budget mandated several alterations in the Lexington Education Association contract. In an attempt to minimize personnel cuts, the negotiated salary increases for 1991-1992 will be delayed for thirty-seven days at the start of next year. On March 14, 80 percent of LEA members voted in favor of the pay freeze, according to Robert Miner, chairperson of the LEA's Professional Rights and Responsibilities Committee.

Before the LEA vote, President Philip Crosby said, "I am very proud of the teachers. The vote on Thursday will be based on their knowledge and wise decisions. They realize what we're trying to accomplish: maintaining programs and keeping class sizes lower, for example."

LEA President Philip Crosby explained that the current 1:17 student-to-teacher ratio will be maintained under next year's budget.
Musket File Photo

But, Crosby cautioned, "It's a long road. We're not over what's going to happen in a year or two. The teachers are acting in the best interests of the school system."

Crosby explained that, under the rehashed contract, the teacher-to-student ratio will be kept at 1:17. He said, "A comprehensive high school can still be kept at the 1:17 ratio. It's tight, but better than 1:18 or 1:19. [At lower ratios,] there were too many restrictions. The 1:17 ratio gives flexibility to the School Committee, gives them more areas to cut and stays within class load caps."

Regarding ongoing contract issues, he added, "We're pledged to meet with the School Committee once a month to discuss the success of the contract. The open dialogue between the LEA and the School Committee has been very important. It has helped ease situations which could have been very divisive. It acts as a reality check."

Crosby was optimistic about future LEA relations within the school system. "I am fully convinced that if the teachers are kept involved, they will be willing participants in solving the problems we face. When there is mistrust, when the teachers feel that money is being improperly spent, obviously it is harder."

Crosby added that the recent reelection of School Committee members Polly H. Woodworth and Albert P. Zabin bodes well for future LEA relation, saying, "Both are committed to interaction, to dealing with the LEA in a professional cooperative manner...The LEA membership is generally pleased — pleased with the public's saying that they support [the teachers]...The elections showed to me that the community supports [the School Committee's] relationship with the teachers."

When asked if the outcome of the elections would prevent future teacher cuts, "No, they're not necessarily tied together...I feel [the LEA] will have a vital part to play in making clear what the impacts of certain personnel cuts will be."

He concluded, "All [the teachers] want is information. We just want to know what's going on. One factor will be the Site Based Councils, which will introduce new directions and deal with problems and change."

Wilson summed up his feelings about the finalized budget by saying, "Given the fact that we are increasing by forty students, and that we had a reduction of nine teachers last year, each cut grows more difficult, but I am pleased that we did not lose all the staff we were originally slated to lose."

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All-Night Graduation Party: *Island Paradise*

Graduation Day, June 9, 1991

The Lexington High School gym will be transformed into an island paradise from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m. on June 9, in honor of the Class of 1991.

Tickets will be on sale for only $15 throughout the month of May.

There will be an all-night D.J., games and contests, dancing, movies, videos, food, a time capsule, caricaturists, and many surprises.

Every senior should be there: It's your last opportunity to be together!

Incumbents Win in Five-Way S.C. Race

Continued from page 1

set...They hope that what we started can be completed." Zabin was optimistic that the new Lexington Education Association (LEA) contract "will move conflict to cooperation."

He continued, "I hope to change the culture of the schools so we're no longer at war with ourselves." Another goal of Zabin is to oversee the implementation of a stricter evaluation system. He said teachers "must be responsible for the quality of each other's work...Some teachers are notorious for not living up to the standards [of their peers]."

Woodworth, who was School Committee chairperson until January 1, 1991, when fellow member Lois Coit took over the reins, said that the town reaffirmed its support for the Committee's efforts toward "cooperation and compromise." Woodworth said she is "excited about working with and on the Committee. There are all kinds of new beginnings."

She said she hopes to continue to improve communications between the Committee and parents, the Committee and school unions, and the Committee and "other town boards." Her primary interest, said Woodworth, is to get students "direct services." Ultimately, Woodworth said that she believes the Lexington School System can be the best school system in the country by the year 1998.

> "The challengers focused on the issues. The incumbents stood on the record of the last three years, which I don't think has been outstanding."
>
> —Casimir Groblewski
> Defeated S.C. Candidate

On the campaign itself, Woodworth commented, "People believed in what they were saying."

Vinton said the race was "hard to call" to the end and that she was disappointed when she saw she had lost by only about 400 votes. Vinton commented, "I think one problem was it was very difficult to talk to elementary school parents, to explain the problems in the High School." Many elementary school parents, she said, think "everything is going pretty well." Another difficulty, she said, was getting the message across to "older citizens [who] didn't know much about the schools."

One area that Vinton perceived as a problem was the new LEA contract. She said that raises were given out without a guarantee of a "better education. There really is reason to look at the teachers' contract." She said that her candidacy made people "more aware of the issues facing the town."

Because of her stance on the teachers' contract, Vinton said she felt people misinterpreted her as being "anti-teacher." She defended her record, saying, "If people end up with the impression that I am anti-teacher, that is absolutely untrue. I've spent a great deal of time and effort supporting the teachers. I can't tell you how discouraging that is to me personally."

LEA President Philip Crosby was pleased with the election's outcome. "Both [of those elected] are committed to interaction, to dealing with the LEA in a professional, cooperative manner...The LEA membership is generally pleased — pleased with the public's saying that they support [the teachers]."

Groblewski said that he thought he was going to win. "I was disappointed that I lost because I thought I campaigned hard over the issues...I felt that people would vote on the issues as opposed to personalities and name recognition." He continued, "The challengers focused on the issues. The incumbents stood on the record of the last three years, which I don't think has been outstanding." Groblewski was also "disappointed by voter turnout," having expected about 35 percent, a difference he thought would have affected the outcome of the election.

The candidate further commented on his being unprepared for "the politics of the opponents," saying, "My hat's off to them." He also stated, "The incumbents had a stronger organization in terms of being able to draw in a diversity of groups, [including] the teachers' union and the elderly." Groblewski noted that many elementary school parents perceived the challengers to be "anti-teacher," a criticism he said was unfounded.

Groblewski had several disagreements with the present School Committee. He said he hoped to "press upon people that we must work better — more in concert." Commenting on the relationship between the Committee and Superintendent of Schools Philip E. Geiger, Groblewski stated, "When the School Committee hires a superintendent, it is important for the Committee to give constructive criticism. When that support is not forthcoming, it's difficult for the superintendent to do his job...The fault lies generally with the committee and to a lesser extent with the administration."

Zabin also commented on the School Committee's relationship with Geiger. "There are areas of tension [between the two parties] and we expect to deal with those in positive, constructive, and frutiful ways." These methods include, said Zabin, the effective use of the annual, soon-to-be-released evaluation of the superintendent, which "will commend his good points" and note "deficiencies." The hope, said Zabin, is that Geiger will respond to the criticisms.

Specifically, Zabin said that Geiger has neglected to issue his "evaluations of evaluators," primarily coordinators and principals. The three-year superintendent had not completed any such evaluations by March 11, according to Zabin's latest information. Under Geiger's contract, he was supposed to have done so annually.

Zabin would not speculate as to what action will be taken if Geiger does not respond effectively to the committee's current criticisms, calling the situation "iffy."

Woodworth said that a new document, devised with a School Committee consultant, "talks about what we expect of any superintendent in Lexington." She stated, "I expect that [Geiger] will meet requirements in the document." She would not say what would happen if the superintendent does not, other than to comment that no decision will be made on any further extensions for Geiger until December 1991.

Crosby commented, "[The superintendent] put himself in the campaign by backing one side more than the other. The community indicated that his was not the majority view."

Vinton said she has not made any future plans in terms of her involvement in the school system. Groblewski said, "A number of people have told me that they heard my message loudly and clearly and that they felt confident that I could make a difference eventually." He did not indicate whether he would run again.

The fifth candidate, Ruth Tocci, could not be reached for comment.

Lexington High School senior Sara Fertitta, who interns at KISS 108 FM, works with Music Director Jerry McKenna, Carmen Caccitore, and Jeff Berlin. See story on page 3.

Photo by Fran Carnes

Musical a Challenge

Continued from page 3

tic! It has been a privilege to work with them, especially since they were dedicated to make it good....In a production like this, you must hop that everyone gives their all — I'd say everybody has."

Credit also goes to Steven Bogart, the drama director, who also designed the sets, and Matt Tap, who wrote the additional lyrics without which, Peaslee insisted, the musical could not have existed. Stage manager Nicole Silverman, a junior, was mostly "impressed with the great dedication of the directors."

The internal doubts of all were also stifled. Senior Glenn Davis, playing the bassoon and the clarinet in the pit orchestra, thought that it "went really well and was really impressed with the quality of music. For awhile it seemed that things weren't coming together, but, in the end, they did."

Senior Eric Reuss, lustful barber Shu Fu on Friday, related, "It was really weird to see the show shape up and come together."

The story is of the poor town of Setzuan, where there is much selfishness in almost all the people. Three gods descend to the earth in hopes of finding one good person. They find this person in Shen Te, performed by junior Laura Lapointe on Friday and senior Palyn Hung on Saturday, a poor prostitute, who takes them in when everyone else has turned his backs.

Shen Te is rewarded more than 1000 silver dollars for her hospitality, which she uses to buy a tobacco shop and escape her former life. When the people of the town find out that she has come upon some fortune, they come to take advantage of her good will. Everyone she knows wants something from her — money, food, shelter, or love. Shen Te finds herself in a jam because she cannot remain good if the townspeople continue to pressure her and take advantage of her charitable self. She creates cousin Shui Ta, a disguise she bears in order to fend off the evil townsfolk.

Meanwhile, the unemployed pilot, Yang Sun (senior Marc Greenberg and junior Jason Watkins), is in a park in Setzuan wanting to hang himself because of his desperate situation. Shen Te passes by and stops him, talks with him, and then falls in love with him. She promises him and his mother the 500 dollar-bribe he needs to get a pilot's job.

Shui Ta takes over for a long period of time, but Wong, the water carrier played by seniors Brian Lee and Bryan Williams, is suspicious because rice is left out for the poor — something Shen Te always remembered to do.

The suspicions grow and and the policeman is sent for. Upon finding Shen Te's clothes, the police lead Shui Ta off for trial. The three gods who gave Shen Te the fortune preside as the judges in the court.

Shui Ta insists that the court be cleared in order to make a confession. He reveals himself as Shen Te and begs the gods to help her. They are so happy and excited that their good person lives taht they ignore her protests and requests for help. The illustrious ones express their faith in her goodness and then leave for heaven. At their parting, Shen Te is seen desperately scooping rice into bowls for the poor. She leaves the audience with a blood-chilling, passionate and pleading cry of "Help!"

Although there was much laughter throughout the entire production, the serious ideas of the play and the heartbreaking words of Shen Te still linger in the minds of the cast, crew, directors, and most

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Swimmers Win First Place in Middlesex

by Elbert Kuo
and Matt Cole

Suddenly, all motion stopped. The monotonous drone of pool filters became the only sound in the Bentley College Pool Complex. Then, the announcer's voice reverberated through the stagnant air, "In third place: Belmont with 230 points...in second place with 257 points: Winchester..."

A monstrous roar erupted from a small team down at the far end. The Lexington boys' swim team won the Middlesex League meet by three points, beating arch-rival Winchester, the team responsible for the Minutemen's only Middlesex League loss.

The meet had come down to the final event, the 400-yard freestyle relay. Lexington led by a scant five points, and the Winchester Sachems were still in excellent position to snatch away the victory. However, the Minutemen would repeat last year's victory if they finished no more than one place behind the stronger Sachem squad.

All hope seemed lost when the Sachems pulled out to an early lead, leaving Lexington swimmers Sean Gnecco, Matt Cole, Robbie Egan and David Murman in third place. But in the last 25 yards, the Belmont anchor blitzed past the Sachem swimmer to a finish so close that it could only be determined by electronic timing.

Junior Colin Glover commented, "We knew it was very close. We didn't know if we'd won or lost [the meet]." Fulfilling the team's hopes, Belmont secured the relay by only .08 seconds, leaving the Winchester team in second, and Lexington in third place, clinching the meet. Co-captain Conan Hom recalled, "It was the first really close call that went our way [this year]."

Entering the league meet, Lexington had a 4-1 record, second only to the undefeated Winchester Sachems.

The meet started on a good note when Egan, Murman, Cole, and Co-captain Ethan Ehrenberg captured third place in the 200-yard medley relay with a season best time1:56.35. The 200-yard individual medley belonged to Murman, who dominated the competition with a first-place time of 2:12.74 while Hom and Greg McDonald placed eighth and tenth respectively.

In the 50-yard freestyle, first year swimmer Gnecco ripped to a third place in only 24.88 seconds. Senior Mike Zeylikman finished right behind in a close fourth, with Nigel Glover following in sixth place. Shubhang Mishra won his heat with his best time ever, 30.67.

Despite the outstanding efforts by every swimmer in the team during the first half, the Minutemen received a major setback due to the diving portion. Without freshman diver Chuck Doerr, the Minutemen were already handicapped, but Mike Kennedy, probably the best diver in the league, was expected to win the event until a clerical problem disqualified his fourth dive. Despite this error, Kennedy managed a respectable fourth place.

> "[The league title] was the first really close call that went our way [this year]."
>
> — Senior co-captain Conan Hom

In the second portion of the swim meet, Egan initiated a comeback with an impressive 59.41 in the 100-yard butterfly, earning first place. Senior Hom and Oren Mael added valuable ninth and tenth place finishes.

The team continued their success in the 100-yard freestyle with Gnecco placing fourth in 57.44, Ehrenberg eighth in 1:00.30, and Nigel Glover ninth in 1:00.56. The 500-yard freestyle proved to be another LHS strength when Murman topped the field with a time of 5:09.72. Cole finished fourth in 5:43.07, and freshman Brian Smith pulled a best time of 6:52.88.

In the key 200-yard freestyle relay, Gnecco, Zeylikman, Ehrenberg, and Nigel Glover scored a close second place (1:42.93). During the 100-yard backstroke, Egan, McDonald and sophomore Chris Tullman finished fourth, eleventh, and twelfth respectively. Swimmers Ehrenberg, Zeylikman, Smith, Colin Glover and Kennedy turned the 100-yard breaststroke into a keystone of the Lexington victory; their third, fourth, eighth, twelfth and thirteenth place finishes put the Minutemen on top by five points going into the final relay.

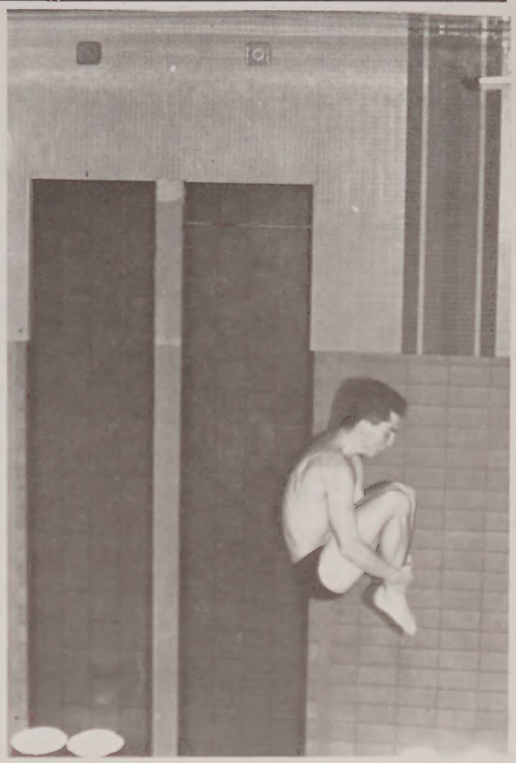
The Minutemen, a hardy group of nineteen swimmers built around a core of veterans, excelled "far better than expected," according to Murman. "The win at the Middlesex League meet was the highlight of the season," said junior Elbert Kuo. Egan disagreed, claiming that the best parts of the season were "the parties after the meets."

The team sent nine swimmers to the North Sectional meet in Haverhill. Star events for the LHS team included the 200-yard medley relay (1:53) and the 400-yard freestyle relay (3:38), which placed well enough to continue to the State Meet. Murman placed fourth with an incredible 1:05.09 in the 100-yard breaststroke and Egan place eleventh overall in the 100-yard butterfly (1:00.20). Senior Kennedy again felt the blows of a failed dive, but still placed twelfth.

Only five swimmers traveled to Springfield for states. Kennedy placed a close thirteenth in the diving while Murman, Egan, Gnecco and Cole swam the 200-yard medley and 400-yard freestyle relays. Murman swam the 500-yard freestyle, placing sixteenth with 5:07.34, and the 100-yard breaststroke, placing seventeeth in 1:05.43. Also, Egan placed twenty-sixth in 100-yard butterfly in 59.23 seconds.

Henriques said, "Everyone did okay, but not as well as [they had] a week or two weeks before."

Already one of the smallest teams in the league, the Minutemen will lose seven graduating seniors and will be recruiting new swimmers. "We can get a bunch of firsts," added Murman, "but we need people who can provide the second and thirds" that will win meets.



Senior diver Michael Kennedy does a flip at the Belmont-hosted Relay Carnival. Kennedy is considered one of the top divers in the Middlesex League.

Photo by David Murman

Fitz. and Single Tops in Track

by Dan Marx

While the Lexington boys' indoor track season was coming to an end for most of the participating athletes, two of the team's members were beginning to train as hard as ever. Seniors Ted Fitzpatrick and Ed Single had more in store than the Middlesex League; the two went on to compete individually on the state level.

Fitzpatrick and Single first had to prove themselves at the Massachusetts Class A track meet, where both ran against the top runners from high schools in Lexington's division. Fitzpatrick ran to victory, in a preview of what was to come at the entire-state meet at Harvard University. Single also had an impressive performance, racing to second place, just behind Chris Georgules of St. John's High School.

These runs qualified Fitzpatrick and Single for Harvard's Gordon Track on February 17, where they were to run against the best of Massachusetts in the 1991 Auerbach/MIAA state track meet.

In the one-mile race, Ed Single stepped up to the line and stood next to Georgules of St. John's High School. Georgules got the edge on Single, taking the race by an extremely slim margin — just over two seconds. They posted times of 4:20.4 and 4:22.38.

Fitzpatrick faced equally stiff competition in the two-mile event, but he proved that his performance at the class meet was no fluke by giving a repeat performance. He won the race, sporting one of his personal best times of 9:24.57, beating second-place Bryson Coles of Gloucester High School by a comfortable eight seconds.

Despite their success, neither can put his feet up and relax, for the outdoor track season is right around the corner and Lexington is counting on them.

Wrestlers Have 'Learning Year'

by Yeh-Jiun Tung

Though the wrestling team's final record stands at 4-14, it tells little of the soul of Lexington's matmen. Led by tri-captains Mark Manfredi, Kevin Joseph, and Gerard Marino, the team was comprised mostly of inexperienced underclassmen. As Coach William Nichols put it, "It was a learning year for us."

At the Division I Central Sectional Meet, only two Minutemen fared well enough to advance to the State meet. Sophomore Kevin Joseph, wrestling at 119 pounds, earned the sectional title in his weight class by beating Malden rival Adriano, 2-0.

At States, Joseph lost a tough match to Xaverian's Jim Gallagher, who would later grab the state title. After losing another match to a Brockton opponent, Joseph held strong and defeated a Haverhill adversary to take a respectable fifth place. Coach Nichols commented later, "Kevin was wrestling with the flu and deserves a lot of credit for sticking it out in those matches."

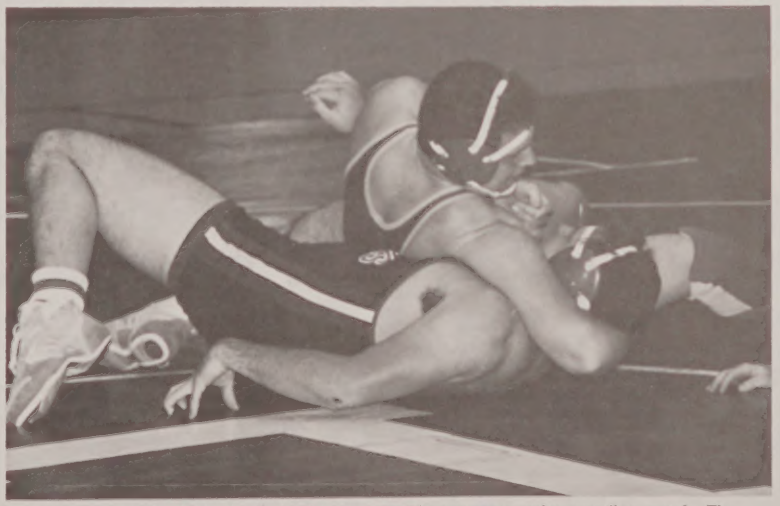
Joseph's other notable accomplishments include a first place at the Catholic Memorial Holiday Invitational Tournament, a second place at the Belmont Invitational, and first place at the Middlesex League tournament. Coach Nichols said he has high hopes for Joseph next year: "Lexington hasn't had a state champ since 1971, and I think Kevin has the ability to be champ."

The other Minuteman stalwart was 112-pound Noel Deas. Deas wrestled his way to a third place finish in the sectional meet. Deas's strong, aggressive style landed him a spot in the State meet, despite the severely bruised thigh he was suffering from. As a first year wrestler, Deas's performance was an "accomplishment in itself," as Coach Nichols stated. Nichols's only regret about Deas? "I wish he had wrestled for us earlier."

Other notable wrestlers included juniors Brendan Kenney and Gerard Marino. Kenney, who has been described by coaches as an outstanding wrestler and a hard worker, is expected to fare very well in the state tourney next year. Marino also will be a considerable force as a senior.

Both Porter and Nichols had nothing but praise for the many unrecognized, but hard-working wrestlers who make up the bulk of the wrestling squad. Porter said, "We have great role models for the younger wrestlers and they have keyed off of [the experienced ones]. The work ethic of this team is great."

The matmen will be honing their skills this summer at a new clinic being run at Belmont High School. As Nichols declared, "Most of the work of an outstanding wrestler is done in the off-season."



Senior co-captain Mark Manfredi pins his opponent in a recent varsity wrestling match. The wrestling team finished with a record of 4-14 for the year.

Photo courtesy Yearbook

Girls' Track Grabs Division I Title

Sophomore sensation Becky Dennison races to victory in the 1000-yard run. Dennison won the state title in this event, leading the Lexington team to its third consecutive Class A State Championship. Photo courtesy Yearbook

by Bernadine Tsung

Following an undefeated regular season, the Lexington girls' indoor track team finished off the year by snatching the Class A (Division 1) State Championship away from a powerful Newton North team. Competition was intense throughout the meet, with the Middlesex League champions finally pulling ahead with a score of 44.5 to Newton North's 44 points. In the words of Coach Arthur Dulong, Lexington's success was a "total team effort." The team won the Middlesex League Championship for the sixth consecutive year.

The deciding half-point was scored by senior Latisha McQueen, who split a point for a sixth-place tie in the high jump. Lexington was able to stay strong through strong showings in every event. First place medals went to Becky Dennison in the 1000-yard run, Maria Berger in the two-mile run, and the 4x400 relay team of McQueen, Lora Marzilli, Sarah Hutchinson, and Dennison.

In the other relay, Lexington's 4x800 team, consisting of Cara Attanucci, Jessica Williams, and Angela and Concetta Marino, finished fourth. Petra Rydlova and Marzilli took fifth in the two-mile and the dash events, respectively, while birthday girl Shana Yansen raced to a sixth-place finish in the hurdles. In the field events Michelle Pavidis threw her way into fifth place in the shot put, while Yansen and McQueen leaped into fourth and sixth place in the high jump, respectively.

Lexington came in second to Newton North in both the All-State meet and the State Relay meet. The Maids competed strongly in both, scoring highly in many events.

Illness and misfortune caused Lexington to be undermanned in the State meet; the team was missing both Marzilli and McQueen. Yansen came back from a week of being sick with pneumonia to advance to the finals of the hurdles. Other members of the team competed very well, showing their talent, spirit, and determination.

Dennison is the new State Champion in the 1000, having grabbed first with a time of 1:40.1. Berger placed third in the two mile with a time of 11:44.7, while the 4x800 relay of Williams, Attanucci, Hutchinson, and Concetta Marino captured the silver medal. Pavidis competed strongly in the shot put, while Yansen gave the high jump her best shot.

Lexington remained strong throughout the regular season, repeatedly shaking off the challenges of all other teams in the Middlesex League. The Maids finished their 9-0 season by defeating Wakefield in a meet that marked the last time this year's seniors would compete in the field house. As the meet drew to a close, the team gathered to receive its Middlesex League Championship trophy.

Junior forward Craig Murray puts a shot home against Burlington on February 15. The Minutemen went on to win the game, securing a tie with Burlington for the Middlesex League Championship. Photo by Jonathan Feldman

Lady Hoopsters Lose to Devils

by Susan Catterall
and Sara Fertitta

The Lexington High School girls' basketball team closed its 6-12 season with a devastating loss on Friday, February 15 to the undefeated Burlington Lady Devils, 54-23.

The Maids' season was not without success, as senior Anne Quinn and junior Catherine Urban were named to the Middlesex League All-Star team and participated in the honorable game Saturday, February 16th in Watertown. Also included in the festivities was Lexington freshman Deanna Mellican, who won the league's three-point shooting crown, beating Burlington's Kristen Nulan 7 baskets to 6.

Juniors Sam Coyne and Urban, sophomore Karen Tracey and freshman Chris Yasaitis combined for eight points in the first half for the Minutemaids against Burlington. Burlington's pressure defense held the Maids in check while the Devils' offense scored 31 points in the opening half.

Burlington maintained their point-fest in the second half, scoring 13 points before junior Yolanda Scott hit a jumper from the top of the key at 9:04 to make the score 44-10. Scott racked up two more points with a Jordanesque finger roll at 6:53.

Burlington continued its consistent scoring, but captain Quinn helped Lexington gain control offensively late in the half. Quinn had a three-point shot at 2:41 and followed with a top of the key and a turn-around jumper at 2:11 and 1:50 respectively, to cut Burlington's lead to 52-19.

Amy McDonald's lay up at 1:18 finished the Devils' scoring, but Quinn continued to add to Lexington's total. She had a rebound and a lay up at :58 and another lay up off an assist from Martha Daileanes at :01 to bring the final score to 54-23.

Quinn finished with 11 points to lead the Maids, followed by Scott with 4. Mary Carroll led the Burlington squad with 25 points.

Boys' B-Ball Ousted in First Round by Malden

by Eoin Cannon

The boys' varsity basketball team ended its season on Tuesday, February 26 with a 69-44 defeat at the hands of Malden High School. The shocking first-round tournament loss came just one week after a superb effort against Burlington, which gained the Minutemen a share of the Middlesex League title.

Lexington entered the game in Burlington at 12-5, a record that stood as a testament to an outstanding comeback year following their dismal 1989-1990 season. The best, however, was yet to come against 13-4 Burlington.

Lexington's fast pace and hot shooting picked apart the vaunted Burlington squad. The Minutemen immediately opened up a lead in the first half that was challenged only sporadically by big man Todd Palmer and shooting guard Eric Langeon.

Lexington's perimeter game of Brad Martin and Brian Driscoll complemented the consistent inside turnaround moves of Craig Murray. Rashad Wilson successfully intimidated the Burlington guards with his strength and quickness, at one point making two open court steals and layups in a row. Lexington beat Burlington their two meetings.

The win left the Minutemen ranked in the Eastern Massachusetts top ten for the first time this season, at ninth, and seeded fifth in the North Sectional Tournament. The tournament qualification was Lexington's 20th in 23 years.

As soon as Malden, a member of the Greater Boston League took the floor, something seemed amiss. Malden's front line of the 6'6" Corey Johnson and Bryan Keats and the 6'5" Mike Conner loomed as giants next to Lexington's Murray, Driscoll and Matt Allen.

At the outset Conner was most impressive. His legs stood like tree-trunks, anchoring his muscular 220-pound frame. And here's the shocker: He's only a sophomore. This was a *man* on the basketball court, not just in size, but in skills.

Conner, however, was not the player who ended Lexington's hope for a tournament victory. Corey Johnson devastated the Minutemen with a series of power dunks that left fans and players speechless.

Keats added a quiet 10 points and 9 rebounds, complementing Johnson's 23 points and Conners 22 points and 8 rebounds. The real story was Johnson's slams. The first came completely out of the blue, a baseline, hang-on-the-rim one-hander that left open mouths throughout the gym. One minute there was just another faceless schoolboy driving the baseline, the next minute WHAM, "showtime, baby."

The next dunk came in the middle of the lane. Johnson received the ball about 7 feet from the bucket with three Lexington defenders on him, turned to face the rim, and SLAM, it was glass-flying, babies crying Drexler-Barkley-Mailman stuff. When the referee signaled an offensive foul, the crowd checked to see which Minuteman was having his body peeled off the floor.

The hot hand of Brad Martin kept Lexington close in the second quarter, along with the gutsy but futile efforts of Craig Murray underneath. Before the game was over, Murray and the other Lexington forwards all had the name of the gameball imprinted on their face several times over.

Despite the season-ending loss, the team had much to be proud of this year. A share of the Middlesex League does not come easily. Also, Martin, Murray, and Wilson gained League All-Star status, showing that Lexington's talent pool is still strong. With the re-emergence of Lexington basketball as a powerhouse in the area, fans can look forward to more years of great action in the fabled high school gym.

Sophomore Josh Ogden protects senior goalie Brian Zabin in a February home game versus Concord-Carlisle High School. The team finished with a record of 3-15-2. Photo by Tina Granger